

in college. Under most of these plans, participation guarantees that tuition will be "locked-in" at today's prices, helping families fight inflation.

The State of Florida has an excellent program that has been operating for eight years with great success. Florida has sold more than 327,000 contracts to residents planning ahead for their children's college education. I am pleased that my own State of Maryland is planning to adopt a prepaid tuition program to help residents who are concerned about preparing for their children's future.

There are several reasons for encouraging more States to adopt plans that promote college savings:

Additional savings might enable some students to consider more expensive public as well as private schools. Consequently, families will have more choice as to which schools their children might attend. Additional savings may enable a student to live on campus rather than at home, and to attend school full-time rather than part-time.

Savings for college encourages parents to begin thinking about their children's education and planning for their future. Planning ahead might encourage parents to set higher educational standards and goals for their children.

Providing plans to encourage college savings reduces the need for student loans, which could reduce student debt and the student default rate.

Mr. Speaker, I have long supported measures to help students pay for college. At present, approximately 500,000 families nationwide participate in tuition prepayment programs that make college more affordable for middle-class families. I believe that all of our States should provide prepaid tuition or other savings plans to give American families everywhere the opportunity to save for their children's college education in advance. Helping our nation's families send their children to school is crucial to the economic strength and the cultural growth of our country.

THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATION OF UKRAINE

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the newly independent nation of Ukraine which observes the 5th Anniversary of its independence on August 24. Over the past 5 years, the people of Ukraine have made dramatic progress in their struggle to build a free and democratic society. The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other monitoring groups report that Ukraine has the finest human rights record of all former Soviet republics. This summer, the Ukrainian Parliament passed a new Constitution which enshrines the principles of liberty, equal rights and free enterprise. Working with American corporations and private voluntary groups, President Leonid Kuchma has mounted an inspiring campaign to overcome the tragic legacy of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, to privatize local enterprises and to revitalize the eternal life of ethnic and religious minorities which had long been suppressed under the Soviet system.

I am proud to acknowledge the remarkable accomplishments of the Ukrainian-American community in my home state of New Jersey which kept faith with the people of Ukraine during the long dark years of Soviet rule when hopes of winning freedom seemed to be remote and dim.

I especially wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), based in Short Hills, NJ, which over the past 6 years has become the leading provider of medical aid to Ukraine. On a modest budget of under \$3 million, CCRF has leveraged more than \$40 million worth of humanitarian aid to the hospitals which specialize in the treatment of radiation victims. I am pleased to support a new Women's & Children's Health Initiative which CCRF has launched in three provinces in Ukraine with a grant from the Monsanto Company to combat the high rate of infant mortality in rural regions. Monsanto has helped many Ukrainian farmers to quadruple their crop yields with modern agricultural techniques. Its unique partnership with CCRF offers a model for similar initiatives in other developing countries.

We should all do everything in our power to promote the cause of freedom in Ukraine, to build a health future for Ukraine's children and to strengthen the growing friendship between Ukraine and the United States.

CONFERENCE REPORT TO H.R. 3734, BUDGET RECONCILIATION—WEL- FARE REFORM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed a welfare reform proposal that I believe will not achieve its stated purpose of breaking the cycle of poverty and return people to the workforce. I voted against the bill because it sacrifices the legitimate needs of legal immigrants, those trying to reenter the workforce, and children who through no fault of their own are in the need of assistance.

I support reforming the welfare system and I have voted for reforms such as those included in the bipartisan proposal by Congressmen TANNER and CASTLE. That proposal would have achieved real reform while keeping children fed and out of poverty, and providing the necessary funding for people to move from welfare into the work force.

In short, the Tanner-Castle legislation represented responsible reform. The conference report did not.

This is billed as "welfare reform." It is a scale back of benefits. It hurts children who have no control over their economic circumstances.

It fails on the issue of legal immigrants who have played by the rules we established for living in the United States. In abdicating this responsibility, the Federal Government places a heavy financial burden on local governments. In California alone, additional costs of as much as \$10 billion could burden counties over the next 6 years.

Finally, the level of financial commitment that States must meet is inadequate to address the job which is being promised. The Tanner-Castle proposal guaranteed an 85 per-

cent maintenance of effort by states. In other words, States must spend at least 85 percent of what they spent in 1994 on welfare programs and yet the conference report allows States to spend only 75 percent on their 1994 welfare budgets. The Congressional Budget Office has stated that under this bill states will have to provide additional services without additional money. Welfare recipients may find new job training opportunities, but at what cost? Less food? Less child care? These are the choices with which Congress has burdened our local governments by passing this bill.

I could not, in good conscience, support a phony reform bill that so clearly fails to provide the resources needed to move individuals from welfare to work. It hurts the innocent—the children—and my Faith, not a party nor a President nor political winds, gives me the foundation on which I cast my vote.

THE FORGOTTEN TIMORESE

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I recently read an article in the Washington Post that discusses the increasing repression of the people of East Timor by a brutal Indonesian Government and accuses the world, including the United States, of just not caring.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Indonesia is nothing new—since 1975 when Indonesia invaded East Timor and annexed it the following year, the peaceful citizens of East Timor have lived under daily brutal assault. Just 4 years ago, Indonesian troops killed more than 250 peaceful mourners in a cemetery in Dili, the Timorese capital. In response to this reprehensible act, the Congress cut off all military training aid for Indonesia.

Last year, Congress agreed, despite the strong objection of many Members, including myself, to renew military training aid for Indonesia upon the condition that the human rights situation would improve over the course of the year. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to report that instead of improvement, we saw deterioration in the human rights situation throughout 1995. The 1995 State Department Country Report on Human Rights Practices section devoted to Indonesia spells out very clearly Indonesia's lack of progress on the human rights front.

And what do we do in light of deteriorating human rights conditions in East Timor? We vote, unbelievably, to give more military training aid to Indonesia for fiscal year 1997. Mr. Speaker, this sends the wrong message to the Indonesian Government. First, by saying one thing and doing the opposite, we give the impression that we do not mean what we say. This type of behavior gives us little credibility in the future to try to pressure the Indonesian Government to reform its oppressive ways. Second, by giving more military aid to a government whose human rights policies we find unconscionable, we give the Indonesian Government the go ahead to keep committing human rights abuses. Mr. Speaker, we must not continue to send mixed messages. We must send the strong, clear message that we will not tolerate such atrocious behavior. We must let the people of East Timor know that

we care about them, and that they are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as the world leader, the United States has the wonderful opportunity, and I argue obligation, to help improve conditions worldwide. We must not waste our chance to help the peaceful people of East Timor live free from daily fear and oppression.

"ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL"

HON. BILL ORTON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast script-writing contest. It is a truly worthwhile program that not only gives our youth academic support through scholarship awards, but also gives them the opportunity to become more acquainted with local veterans. The contest theme this year was "Answering America's Call."

Today, I am proud to recognize a bright, young member of my district, Michael Fox, for his patriotic writing ability. Michael and 53 others were chosen from a group of more than 100,000 participants to receive scholarships that will provide crucial assistance in meeting the costs of higher education. I am pleased to pay tribute to Michael Fox by presenting his award-winning script to the U.S. Congress.

The following is a copy of Michael Fox's winning script:

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Michael Fox)

For every generation of this great nation, since before it was christened America, there has been at least one great call. A resounding call for decisive, cooperative, forceful action. Each great call centers around a crisis which if left unresolved would compromise or even destroy the wonderful land that is the United States of America. A great call is heard by every citizen in every corner of the land, and each is answered by the champions of America. It is thanks to these brave heroes, the champions of America that this nation exists today as the greatest on earth.

The standard for the great American hero was set in the early days by the father of our country, George Washington and the army that followed him in rebellion against the oppressive tyranny of England. This army was raised out of a haphazard group of farmers who made up for what they lacked in classical military know-how with courage, smarts, rugged individualism and honor. The sheer, rabid will to fight, and the selfless willingness to give up their lives so that their families could be free won the day for that heroic legion.

After that conflict, in which America won the right to rule itself, another kind of hero emerged. This hero had the same moral qualities as the men of Washington's army. Many in fact were veterans. But they responded to a different call. Theirs was the burden of leadership, of establishing order, and striking a balance between government rule and personal freedom. The qualities of the American hero gave these men the ability to build a nation such as none before it. They had the insight to realize that people, if given the chance, could rule themselves better than any king. They had the courage to try out new ideas on a national scale. And they had the honor to keep the new govern-

ment free of the kind of power-hungry corruption that hindered France on its path to freedom.

The success of these early American champions in hearing and answering the call of America set a precedent, and defined our national character. It is the men and women in possession of this virtuous national character, that have carried us through every hardship. It is the ability of this American champion to answer the call with brave deeds and wise words that has brought the nation intact through every war, every depression, and every catastrophe.

But the great calls of America are by no means the only ones. The heroic deeds recorded in history books are in and of themselves not sufficient to maintain America. The true American champion need not fight in a revolution or rescue his nation from an economic disaster. For the spirit of the American champion is powerful when applied to every aspect of life. The characteristics of George Washington can be observed every day in the people who beat back the criminal element that grows in our cities like a cancer, in the people who work to build and feed not only America but also the less fortunate countries of the world, and in the people who teach the children so that the next generation of Americans may be as wise, brave, and honorable as the first. These people who answer the subtle calls of America are the glue that holds the nation together.

If our nation is to continue to grow and progress, each of us must be committed to the ideals of the American champion. Each of us must be ready for America's next great call. But in the absence of a great call, each of us must be sensitive to the little calls. And when the call comes, we'll fight. We'll never run away. Because ever since America began, the land of the free has also been the home of the brave.

CHRISTINA CABRERA, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST WINNER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call the attention of the House to the work of Christina Cabrera of Seaford, DE. Christina is Delaware's State winner of the Veterans of Foreign War's Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest and has also been named a national winner and recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship award from the VFW. I congratulate Christina, her family, and VFW Post 4961 in Seaford, DE for sponsoring this excellent program.

As my colleagues know, the VFW has sponsored the Voice of Democracy Competition for 49 years to promote patriotic and civic responsibility among our young people and to help them attend college through the scholarship awards. The competition requires students to write and record a 3 to 5 minute essay on a patriotic theme. This year, over 116,000 students participated in the contest on the theme: "Answering America's Call." I am very proud to share with the House, Christina's excellent essay on the need for young people to answer the call and become actively involved in making our country a better place to live.

Again, congratulations to Christina, the Cabrera family, and the members of VFW Post 4961 for their fine work.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Christina Cabrera)

Ring. Ring. Hello. Hello, this is America calling. Oh, hello.

I am calling to tell you that America as we know it is slowly deteriorating. The percentage of teenage pregnancy, alcohol abuse, and violence is every increasing. As for adults, the percentage of registered voters that actually vote is declining, unemployment is a widespread concern, and everyone seems to be pointing a finger of accusation at everyone else in a childish blame game.

I know all of this, but why are you calling me? I am calling you because, as a member of today's youth, you are a part of tomorrow's leaders. You are the only chance America has.

This phone conversation, though somewhat silly, is more serious than it appears. Unfortunately, many adolescents and young adults are not answering the call for action to make this country an even better place than it is. Though Americans are already free, the need to be productive and successful is important as well. Americans owe it to themselves as a nation, and to the memory of those who gave their lives for freedom and made the United States the country it is today.

There are several ways one can answer the call. One way is to volunteer. Community service is always appreciated by those who are being helped. Working at a soup kitchen, visiting the sick or shut-in, or babysitting for free the kids down the road whose mother is struggling to make ends meet are all simple ways to make one's community better. Another way to answer America's call is to devote oneself to a political or humanitarian cause. Help make public service announcements concerning violence or drug and alcohol abuse. Join the staff of a Planned Parenthood Clinic or a Suicide Hotline. An increasing number of persons using these facilities need someone to talk to. Many options are available, and the experience is worth the effort. A final way to answer the call is to make a big step and join the military. This provides an opportunity for one to defend one's country, an important job in today's nuclear-weapon-stocked world. It does not matter what one does, as long as one takes the initiative to help out instead of waiting for others to do so.

The most important part of answering America's call is to cease playing the blame game. By making oneself a victim and shifting the blame on everyone else, one only adds to the problems plaguing our country. Instead of complaining that society treats women unfairly, join a group that advocates change. Instead of complaining that racial minorities are unequally treated, write to Congress and let them know. If change is to be brought about, it will only occur if everyone helps to make it happen.

By answering the call, not only will Americans be helping the United States become a stronger nation, but will also be setting an example for others to start contributing their talents